

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of determining whether digital content is licensed to be provided to a client system, the method comprising:
  - providing a processor;
  - receiving a content URL address for a content location on a server system at which a desired unit of digital content is stored;
  - identifying a licensing information address from the content URL address, the licensing information address being different from the content URL address, and the licensing information address comprising an address to a licensing information location at which is stored licensing information from which licensed content URL addresses may be identified, the licensed content URL addresses comprising addresses of locations of licensed units of digital content that the server system is authorized to provide to a client system;
  - using the licensing information address to access the licensing information at the licensing information location; and
  - utilizing the processor for reviewing the content URL address and the licensing information to determine whether the content URL address comprises a licensed content URL address, wherein the reviewing further includes:
    - determining a URL pattern referenced in the licensing information;
    - and
    - comparing the URL pattern referenced in the licensing information with the content URL address.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim [[2]] 1, wherein comparing the URL pattern referenced in the licensing information with the content URL address further includes:

confirming that the license covers the desired unit of digital content by  
determining that the URL pattern referenced in the licensing information  
corresponds to the content URL address.

4. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 3, wherein the URL pattern corresponds to the content URL address when the URL pattern matches the content URL address.

5. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 3, further comprising:  
responding to the URL pattern that corresponds to the content URL address by  
directing the client system to render the desired unit of digital content.

6. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, wherein identifying the licensing information address from the content URL address further includes:

determining at least one potential location for the licensing information on the  
server system based on a prefix of the content URL address.

7. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 6, wherein the at least one potential location is determined through a directory system on the server system, the directory system having a root directory and at least one subdirectory.

8. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 7, further comprising:

searching through the root directory for the licensing information.

9. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 7, further comprising:

searching for the licensing information through the at least one subdirectory where the desired unit of digital content resides on the server system when:

the licensing information is not found through the root directory, or

the licensing information found through the root directory does not correspond to the desired unit of digital content.

10. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, wherein the end-user is a user of the client system; wherein the client system is the content provider for the end-user; and wherein identifying the licensing information address is in response to a request, by the client system, to download the desired unit of digital content from the content location to provide to the end-user.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 10, further comprising:

responding to the request by:

delivering the desired unit of digital content to the client system, confirming that a URL pattern referenced in the licensing information corresponds to the content URL address; and

in response to confirming that the URL pattern corresponds to the content URL address, rendering the desired unit of digital content on the client system.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, wherein the licensing information includes a licensing key.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 12, wherein the license key is an encrypted text file.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 12, wherein the license key comprises a first license key, and further comprising:  
overriding any other license key on the server system when the first license key is located through a root directory of the content URL address.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, wherein reviewing the content URL address and the licensing information further includes:

determining whether the licensing information has been altered.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, wherein the licensing information further includes information pertaining to restrictions on rendering of the desired unit of digital content.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, wherein the licensing information further includes information about a feature of the desired unit of digital content that is enabled or disabled.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim [[2]] 1, wherein the URL pattern referenced in the licensing information indicates one or more licensed content URL addresses.

19. (Currently Amended) A ~~tangibly-embodied~~ computer-readable hardware medium ~~comprising~~: having computer executable instructions, which, when executed by a processor in a computer system, cause the processor to respond to a request to download a desired unit of digital content at a content location on a server system, the content location having a content URL address, by:

identifying a licensing information address from the content URL address,

the licensing information address being different from the content URL address, and

the licensing information address comprising an address to a licensing information location at which is stored licensing information from which licensed content URL addresses may be identified, the licensed content URL addresses comprising addresses of locations of licensed units of digital content that the server system is authorized to provide to a client system;

using the licensing information address to access the licensing information at the licensing information location; and

utilizing the processor for reviewing the content URL address and the licensing information to determine whether the content URL address comprises a licensed content URL address, wherein the reviewing further includes:

determining a URL pattern referenced in the licensing information; and

comparing the URL pattern referenced in the licensing information with the content URL address.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~tangibly-embodied~~ computer-readable hardware medium of Claim ~~[[20]]~~ 19, wherein the instructions to compare the URL pattern referenced in the licensing information with the content URL address further include:

instructions to confirm that the license covers the desired unit of digital content by determining that the URL pattern referenced in the licensing information corresponds to the content URL address.

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~tangibly-embodied~~ computer-readable hardware medium of Claim 21, wherein the URL pattern corresponds to the content URL address when the URL pattern matches the content URL address.

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~tangibly-embodied~~ computer-readable hardware medium of Claim 21, further comprising instructions for:

responding to a URL pattern that corresponds to the content URL address by  
directing the client system to render the desired unit of digital content.

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~tangibly-embodied~~ computer-readable hardware medium of Claim 19, wherein the instructions for identifying the licensing information address from the content URL address further include:

instructions that determine at least one potential location for the licensing  
information on the server system based on a prefix of the content URL  
address.

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~tangibly-embodied~~ computer-readable hardware medium of Claim 24, wherein the at least one potential location is determined through a directory system on the server system, the directory system having a root directory and at least one subdirectory.

26. (Currently Amended) The ~~tangibly-embodied~~ computer-readable hardware medium of Claim 25, further comprising:

instructions for searching through the root directory for the licensing information.

27. (Currently Amended) The ~~tangibly-embodied~~ computer-readable hardware medium of Claim 25, further comprising instructions for:

searching for the licensing information through the at least one subdirectory  
where the desired unit of digital content resides on the server system  
when the licensing information is not found through the root directory, or

the licensing information found through the root directory does not correspond to the desired unit of digital content.

28. (Currently Amended) The ~~tangibly-embodied~~ computer-readable hardware medium of Claim 19,

wherein the end-user is a user of the client system;

wherein the client system is the content provider for the end-user;

wherein identifying the licensing information address is in response to a request, by the client system, to download the desired unit of digital content from the content location on the server system to provide to the end-user.

29. (Currently Amended) The ~~tangibly-embodied~~ computer-readable hardware medium of Claim 28, further comprising:

instructions for responding to the request by:

delivering the desired unit of digital content to the client,

confirming that a URL pattern referenced in the licensing information corresponds to the content URL address; and

in response to confirming that the URL pattern corresponds to the content URL address, rendering the desired unit of digital content on the client system.

30. (Currently Amended) The ~~tangibly-embodied~~ computer-readable hardware medium of Claim 19, wherein the licensing information further includes a license key.

31. (Currently Amended) The ~~tangibly-embodied~~ computer-readable hardware medium of Claim 30 further includes including instructions for:

overriding any other license key on the server system when the license key is located through a root directory of the content URL address.

32. (Currently Amended) The ~~tangibly-embodied~~ computer-readable hardware medium of Claim 19, wherein the instructions for processing the licensing information further include:

instructions that determine whether there are any restrictions on rendering of the desired unit of digital content.

33. (Currently Amended) A ~~software system to determine~~ for determining whether a desired unit of digital content is licensed, comprising:

a processor;

a communications handler responsive to a request to download a desired unit of digital content at a content location on a server system, the content location having a content URL address;

a licensing manager, in communication with the communications handler,

the licensing manager having computer executable instructions operative on the processor ~~being configured for~~:

identifying a licensing information address from the content URL address,

the licensing information address being different from the content URL address, and

the licensing information address comprising an address to a licensing information location at which is stored licensing information from which licensed content URL addresses may be identified, the licensed content URL addresses comprising addresses of locations of licensed units of digital content that the server system is authorized to provide to a client system;

using the licensing information address to access the licensing information at the licensing information location; and

utilizing the processor for reviewing the content URL address and the licensing information to determine whether the content



URL address comprises a licensed content URL address,  
wherein the reviewing further includes:

determining a URL pattern referenced in the licensing  
information; and

comparing the URL pattern referenced in the licensing  
information with the content URL address; and

the licensing manager, utilizing the processor, providing authorization to  
the communication handler to download.

34. (Currently Amended) The ~~software~~ system of Claim 33, wherein the  
communications handler or the licensing manager is associated with a runtime  
environment executing on a client system.

35. (Currently Amended) The ~~software~~ system of Claim 33, wherein a client  
system initiates the request to download the desired unit of digital content from the  
content location on the server system.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) The ~~software~~ system of Claim ~~[[36]]~~ 33, wherein the  
licensing manager is further configured to confirm that the license covers the desired  
unit of content when the URL pattern referenced in the licensing information  
corresponds to the content URL address.

38. (Currently Amended) The ~~software~~ system of Claim 37, wherein the  
licensing manager is configured to respond to a URL pattern referenced in the licensing  
information that corresponds to the content URL address by directing the client system  
to render the desired unit of digital content.

39. (Currently Amended) The ~~software~~ system of Claim 33, wherein the  
licensing manager is configured to obtain the licensing information by determining,

based on a prefix of the content URL address, at least one potential location for the licensing information on the server system.

40. (Currently Amended) The ~~software~~ system of Claim 39, wherein the licensing manager is configured to determine the at least one potential location through a directory system on the server system, the directory system having a root directory and at least one subdirectory.

41. (Currently Amended) The ~~software~~ system of Claim 40, wherein the licensing manager further includes:  
a search routine to search through the root directory for the licensing information.

42. (Currently Amended) The ~~software~~ system of Claim ~~[[40]]~~ 41, wherein the search routine is further configured to search for the licensing information through the at least one subdirectory which is the same directory where the desired unit of digital content is stored when:

the licensing manager determines that licensing information is not found through  
the root directory, or  
the licensing information found through the root directory does not correspond to  
the desired unit of digital content.

43. (Currently Amended) The ~~software~~ system of Claim 33, wherein the licensing manager further includes:  
logic for forgoing processing of any other licensing information on the server  
system when the licensing information is located through the directory  
system, using a prefix of the content URL address.

44. (Currently Amended) The ~~software~~ system of Claim 33, wherein the licensing manager is further configured to determine from the licensing information whether there are any restrictions on rendering of the desired unit of digital content.

45. (Currently Amended) A system for determining whether a unit of digital content is licensed, comprising:

a processor;

computer executable instructions operative on the processor comprising:

means for receiving a content URL address for a content location on a server system at which a desired unit of digital content is stored;

means for identifying a licensing information address from the content URL address,

the licensing information address being different from the content URL address, and

the licensing information address comprising an address to a licensing information location at which is stored licensing information from which licensed content URL addresses may be identified, the licensed content URL addresses comprising addresses of locations of licensed units of digital content that the server system is authorized to provide to a client system;

means for using the licensing information address to access the licensing information at the licensing information location; and

means for reviewing the content URL address and the licensing information to determine whether the content URL address comprises a licensed content URL address, wherein the means for reviewing further includes:

means for determining a URL pattern referenced in the licensing information; and

means for comparing the URL pattern referenced in the licensing information with the content URL address.